

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0984

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, UN, CI

SUBJECT: HRC - CHILEAN ISSUE

REFS: USUN 0677, USUN 0675

1. SUMMARY: VIEWED FROM SANTIAGO PERSPECTIVE, WE WOULD JUDGE THAT DEAL UNLIKELY WHEREBY GOC WOULD RELEASE FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET GUIESCENCE RE OTHER "POLITICAL PRISONERS." END SUMMARY

2. WE ARE COMMENTING ON REFTELS IN RESPONSE USUN REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

3. IN TERMS OF SOVIET INTEREST, LIST HAS CERTAIN VERISI-MILITUDE AS ONE ON WHICH THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO BARGAIN. IT INCLUDES LUIS CORVALAN, SECRETARY GENRAL OF THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY, AND THE BIGGEST COMMUNIST POLITICAL FISH IN GOC HANDS. IT ALSO INCLUDES ENRIQUE KIRBERG, COMMUNIST AND FORMER RECOTOR OF STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE LIST WOULD BE USEFUL TO SOVIETS IN A PUBLIC RELATIONS SENSE, GIVEN THEIR PROMINENCE AND THEIR DIFFERING POLITICAL
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AND INSITUATIONAL AFFILIATIONS. CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA WAS A LEADER OF

THE RADICAL FACTION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, A MEMBER OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND AN ALLENDE FOREIGN MINISTER; PEDRO FELIPE RAMIREZ WAS HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN LEFT AND MINISTER OF MINES AND THEN HOUSING UNDER ALLENDE (AND IS RADO MIRO TOMIC'S SONE-IN-LAW); AND ANSELMO SULE WAS A SENATOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE RADICAL PARTY WHICH REMAINED WITHIN ALLENDE'S UP COALITION.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO BID FOR A SECOND COMMUNIST IN A GROUP OF FIVE, ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT SUCH OTHER COMMUNISTS IN GOC HANDS AS JOSE CADEMARTORI, A LEADING ECONOMIST, OR DANIEL VERGARA, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN KIRBERG. PLAINLY LUIS FIGUEROA, FORMER HEAD OF THE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION (CUT), IS A MORE IMPORTANT COMMUNIST, BUT PERHAPS CAN BE EXCLUDED SINCE HE IS IN ASYLUM IN SWEDISH EMBASSY.

5. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT HAVING SUFFERED A SEVERE SET-BACK AT THE HANDS OF THE PRESENT GOC, THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING A DEAL WHICH WOULD PREVENT THEM FROM BEATING THE GOC WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS STICK ON ANY AND EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

6. LOOKING AT THE GOC SIDE OF THE EQUATION, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOC WOULD TRUST THE SOVIETS TO MAKE GOOD THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN.

7. ADDITIONALLY, IN CONSIDERING SUCH A DEAL, THE JUNTA WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE REACTION OF ITS MILITARY POWER BASE WHICH IS GENERALLY MORE HARD-LINE THAN THE JUNTA ITSELF.

8. FINALLY, UNLESS SPACED OUT OVER TIME AND HANDLED VERY CAREFULLY IN TERMS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE RELEASE OF THIS GROUP OF FIVE COULD MAKE A SHAMBLES OF THE GOC POSITION WITH REGARD TO PERSONS STILL UNDER DETENTION. FROM THE BEGINNING THAT POSITION HAS BEEN THAT ALL DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD FOR INVESTIGATION, UNDER EXISTING CHILEAN LEGAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF A DECLARED "STATE OF WAR" TO DETERMINE WHETHER GROUNDS EXIST FOR BRINGING THEM TO TRIAL FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES, WHILE THOSE FOUND NOT SO CHARGEABLE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELEASED.

9. ON THE WHOLE, WE ARE INCLINED TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SUFFICIENT MOTIVATION ON EITHER THE SOVIET OR CHILEAN SIDE FOR SUCH A DEAL TO BE FEASIBLE. CHILEANS WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO AVOID A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESOLUTION, BUT WE DOUBT THEY WOULD PAY THIS ASKING PRICE.

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